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REMARKS

Claims 12, 14 and 22 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Friedrich '550. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's analysis of the Friedrich '550 reference including Exhibit 1, from the final office action. In view thereof the Applicant notes that the previously incorporated subject matter of claim 13 is unnecessary to make independent claim 12, or amended claims 19 and 22, allowable and therefore this subject matter has been eliminated in order to more clearly define the novel subject matter of the presently claimed invention. Otherwise, the Applicant has slightly amended claim 12 to specifically recite "...a hollow receiving section (16) to directly receive an output shaft of an electromotor...". The Applicant refers to the Examiner's Exhibit 1 and notes that in Friedrich '550 the element C does not directly receive the motor shaft. In fact the pink colored section of Exhibit 1, is a clutch 12, containing a shaft receiver 13. The clutch 12 (or C) does not directly receive the motor shaft 26 of an electromotor, but instead allows the motor shaft 26 to pass through via the shaft receiver 13 into the green colored section of the shaft B.

As the Examiner is aware, in order to properly support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the prior art must disclose each and every limitation of the presently claimed invention. In view of the more clearly defined receiving section 16 in claim 12 for directly receiving the output shaft of an electromotor, the Applicant now believes the presently claimed invention to be allowable.

The Applicant has also amended claim 22 which is also believed to further define the inventive subject matter of the present invention. Claim 22 now includes the subject matter of the independent base claim 12 and specifically recites the further novel subject matter "...wherein a diameter of a functional surface (26) of the sun gear shaft (4) associated with the sealing element (22) is smaller than the diameter of a bore (18) for directly receiving the output shaft of the electromotor in the receiving section (16) of the sun gear shaft (4). Again Friedrich

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*550 fails to disclose either a receiving section or a bore in the receiving section which directly receives the motor shaft. Additionally the reference also fails to disclose, teach or even suggest that the shaft seal is associated with a surface on the shaft having a smaller diameter than the diameter of either a receiving section (16) or a bore (18) as recited in claim 22. As at least this feature is neither disclosed, taught or suggested in any manner by the cited reference, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication that claims 19 and 20 would be allowable, claim 19 is amended to include the subject matter of claims 12, 18 and 19. If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

As remaining claims 14-17 and 20 and 21 are dependent upon the claims 12 and 19 which are now believed allowable in view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes these claims to be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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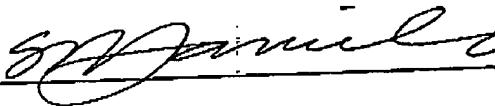
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Scott A. Daniels

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